

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and in view of the present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 14, 21 and 23 are amended. Claims 1-24 are pending in the application.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action, at page 2, claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph as being indefinite. Independent claims 1, 14, 21 and 23 are amended, and accordingly, withdrawal of the § 112, 2nd paragraph rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, at page 2, claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,270,740 to Koos, Jr. This rejection is respectfully traversed because Koos does not discuss or suggest:

- a base frame provided in the main body;
- a main frame disposed above the base frame to form an oven compartment with a front opening; and
- a reinforcing member mounted to the main frame to reinforce the main frame;

wherein the oven generates heat to make bread from dough,

as recited in amended independent claim 1.

As a non-limiting example, the present invention as set forth in claims 1-24, for example, is directed to a bread maker that includes an oven and a kneading system for kneading dough where the oven bakes the dough that is being kneaded. The bread maker includes a base frame and a main frame disposed above the base frame forming an oven compartment to house the oven and the kneading drums for kneading the dough. A reinforcing member is included that is mounted to the main frame and reinforces the main frame and secures the main frame against high temperature generated in the oven, secures against vibration due to the kneading drums and suppresses noise due to the vibration.

Koos discusses an apparatus for heating frozen foods that is a portable-type oven. The oven includes a base plate 10 secured to a cover member 20. A baffle 30 is secured to cover member 20 immediately above the base plate 10. A tray 36 used to retain food is slid onto the baffle 30. A liner 57 having a similar shape to the cover 20 is placed within the cover

immediately above baffle 30 for insulation purposes, and the liner 57 includes front and rear spacing rims 58 and 59.

Koos, however, does not discuss or suggest a bread maker where the bread maker includes an oven that generates heat to make bread from dough. Koos merely discusses an apparatus that is set on top of a stove and used to hold food while it is being heated. The apparatus of Koos does not generate its own heat in order to make bread from dough, but merely provides an apparatus to hold food within the apparatus and allow food to be heated by the stove. Koos further does not discuss or suggest that a reinforcing member is mounted to the main frame to reinforce the main frame. In Koos, the spacing rims 58 and 59 are incorporated into the top of the liner 57, which is used for insulation purposes. The rims 58 and 59 merely provide an area upon which, for example, the small horizontal ridge 48 of the vertical front panel 46 may be placed. The rims do not provide reinforcement for either liner 57 or baffle flange 34. The rims are not reinforcing members as there is nothing the rims reinforce.

Therefore, as Koos does not discuss or suggest a bread maker including "a reinforcing member mounted to the main frame to reinforce the main frame," and that "the oven generates heat to make bread from dough," as recited in amended independent claim 1, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the reference relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-13 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and include all the features of claim 1, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the reference relied upon. For example, claim 2 recites that "the reinforcing member supports the oven." Therefore, claims 2-13 patentably distinguish over the reference relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, at page 2, claims 14-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,874,714 to Sik. This rejection is respectfully traversed because Sik does not discuss or suggest:

- a left frame and a right frame to form a left part and a right part of the oven compartment;
- a rear frame to form the rear part of the oven compartment;
- an upper bracket to form an upper portion of the oven compartment;
- a control panel supporting frame to support a control panel provided in front of the component compartment; and

a reinforcing member mounted to the main frame to reinforce the main frame;

wherein the oven generates heat to make bread from dough,

as recited in amended independent claim 14 and similarly in amended independent claims 21 and 23.

Sik merely discusses a microwave oven that prevents heat damage to an electric power cord. The microwave oven includes an inner case 10 and an outer case 20 forming a housing assembly. The inner case 10 includes a front plate 11, a rear plate 12, a left side plate 13, a right side plate 14, and a bottom plate 16, which form a cooking chamber 100. The front plate 11 includes an upper extending plate portion 11a, a left extending plate portion 11c and a right extending plate portion 11d. Edges of the top, left and right plates of the outer case are coupled to edges of the extending plate portions of the front and rear plates 11 and 12 of the inner case 10 to form the main body of the microwave oven.

Sik does not, however, discuss or suggest a reinforcing member mounted to the main frame to reinforce the main frame. The Examiner alleges that front plate 11 and rear plate 12 each correspond to a reinforcing member that is mounted to the main frame and reinforces the main frame. The applicant respectfully disagrees. The Examiner states that outer case 20 corresponds to the main frame of the present invention and then specifies that the front plate 11 corresponds to the reinforcing member. The outer case 20 of Sik includes top, left and right side plates that are coupled to the front and rear plates 11 and 12. The front and rear plates 11 and 12, however, do not reinforce the outer case 20 by adding extra support to strengthen the outer case 20. The front and rear plates 11 and 12 are merely coupled to the edges of each plate of the outer case 20 to form the main body of the microwave oven. The front and rear plates 11 and 12 do not reinforce the outer case 20 or reinforce any frame. Further, Sik refers to a microwave oven, but does not refer to a bread maker that includes an oven generating heat to make bread from dough. In addition, with respect to claim 21, Sik does not discuss or suggest a reinforcing member that extends horizontally and is in contact with the left and right frames of the oven compartment to reinforce the main frame. There is no reinforcement of the main frame by the plates 11 and 12 cited by the Examiner to correspond to reinforcing members. With respect to amended independent claim 23, Sik does not discuss or suggest a reinforcing member mounted to the main frame to reinforce the main frame and at least one auxiliary reinforcing member extending horizontally and in contact with the left and right frames of the oven compartment to reinforce the main frame.

Therefore, as Sik does not discuss or suggest "a reinforcing member mounted to the main frame to reinforce the main frame; wherein the oven generates heat to make bread from dough," as recited in amended independent claim 14, and similarly in amended independent claims 21 and 23, claims 14, 21 and 23 patentably distinguish over the reference relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-20, 22 and 24 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 14, 21 and 23 and include all the features of their respective independent claims, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the reference relied upon. For example, claim 22 recites that "the reinforcing member is disposed beneath the oven compartment." Therefore, claims 15-20, 22 and 24 patentably distinguish over the reference relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 14, 21 and 23 have been amended. Claims 1-24 are pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 7/31/06

By: 
Kari P. Footland
Registration No. 55,187

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501